# DISPUTED VOTES.

How the Oregon Duplex Electoral College Gonducted Its Proceedings.

REPUBLICAN VERSION OF THE STORY.

congressional Committees Seeking Truth Among the Everglades and Bayous.

CHAMBERLAIN OR HAMPTON.

South Carolina's Rival Governors Submit Their Titles to Judicial Arbitrament.

#### GEORGIA'S VOICE.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

CONCLUSION OF THE LEGAL ARGUMENT ON THE RIVAL CLAIMS OF CHAMBERTAIN AND HAMPTON FOR THE GOVERNERSHIP. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD, 1

COLUMBIA, Dec. 50, 1876.

The argument in the habeas corpus case, before
Judge Carpenter, involving the validity of a pardon
granted by Daniel H. Chamberlain, claiming to act as
Governor, was continued to day. The court room has been crowded all day and the unnost interest manifested. The case Was opened this morning by Colonel L. F. Youmans, the argument of Major Barker, upon the Hampton side, having been closed last night. by his associates, Mr. Maxwell and Major Barker, and argued that Chamberlain could not be regarded, de facto, Governor, because by the returns of the Secretary of State, he d not received a majority of the votes cast at the late election, and having been declared elected by a House made up of a less number than was required by

HAMPTON'S TITLE.
He claimed that, on the other hand, Wade Hampton, having received, upon the face of the returns, the largest number of votes, and having been declared flected by the speaker of the House which has been adjudged to be the legal House of Representatives, his

CHAMBERT MY'S DICTOR TO THE OPPOSE United States District Attorney Corbin, in a lengthy argument, attempted to show that there having been in the Mackey House a quorum of the members sleeted, a declaration of the vote for Governor and all the proceedings of that body were lawlul; that, on the other hand, the Senate, which by the constitution is required to be present at the counting of the votes, were not present when the vote for Hampton was

Court the entire day and thoroughly reviewed the ground occupied by each of the claimants for the office of Governor. After the argument the Court took the papers, and will render a decision during the

#### FLORIDA.

BEPUBLICAN SENTIMENT IN REFERENCE TO THE RECENT ACTION OF THE RETURNING

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD. ]

TALLAHASSER, Dec. 30, 1976.
The Union, at Jacksonville, and the Scatinet, at this place, are the republican organs in this State, the former being largely owned by Governor Stearns. The Union of yesterday contained an editorial sharply condemning the action of the Board of State Canvassers, and mids; - "The Board of Canvassers is comcompetent it may be presumed to perform the duties evolving upon them. At the first canvass they deliberated carefully and with moderation, and the differences between them seemed to have been merely legal differences devoid of any purely partisan coloring. They decided that Governor Stearns and the balauce of the republican ticket had received a majority sented by eminent counsel and considera e latitude for argument was allowed. logical, if they had possessed the judicial powers them, and that, though technically illegal, it was in conformity with the evidence and the Fight. But the action of the Board in this second canvass seems to as to be untenable, and smacks too neach of a political purpose -- a purpose both improper and upjust and one which the Union cannot indorse, HAVES AND STRACKS IN THE SAME BOAT.

"Governor Hayes cannot afford to, nor can the country afford to, have him go into the White House by the electoral vote of Fiorida, unless it be conclusively proved that he is honestly and fairly entitled to that ote; and we do not believe that Governor Hayes, who is an honest and upright man, would lend himself to suy such proceeding. We want the readers of the Union to distinctly understand that we do not acknowledge that Governor Stearns has been defeated. We only trankly and openly say that the State and national tickets cannot be separated in the manner attempted with such a fliney lever as the Baker county ally, the defeat of the other in this State. We do not see how any other result can be arrived at, and no such result as the present will prove satisfactory to the people at large. They will not be satisfied until the its character, adjudicates upon the matter in all its bearings. The returns, with all allidavits, arguments, evidence and all matters pertaining to them, must be brought before the Supreme Court, and they must sift the matter to the bottom.

A NATIONAL QUESTION.
"This is something that has reached more gigantic proportions than a mere State quarrel. It commands the attention of the whole United States, and we might say, in some degree, of the civilized world. It property now, and they have an equal right with me in demanding that its settlement shall not be tainted with fraud; that both parties shall now stand aloof and let that august tribunal, which is the final tribunal this State, that knows no politics or party, pass apon the equity of all proceedings connected with the Hoction, and render its decision without fear or layer. Winnever that decision may be, whether favorable or unfavorable, we propose to valid a quiet obedience to We shall counsel no enreasoning resistance, counive at no attempted fraud, and give to the incom ing administration, whether it be Governor Stearns or Severnor Drew, that hearty support which its actions they seem to martt. True to its political principles the Union waged a bold, open and manly warfare upon the opposition during the last campaign. The contest raded we can see no sense in continuing any warfare concerned. State is higher than party, the interests of the people higher than that of politicians, and the Union does not propose to throw any obstacle in the may of anything that may benefit the people or the

The Sentinel accuses the Scoreme Court of deliberstely reversing the will of the people and ordering the order Covernor Drew will be inaugurated on Tuesday. It says that "it is natural that a bitter and even reof republicans." and admits that such a feeling does

the absent judges did not arrive to-day, for what reason is not known.

SEARCHING FOR TRUTH AMONG THE EVER-GLADES-REPUBLICAN CRITICISM OF THE RETURNING BOARD.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD. ]

JACKSONVILLE, Dec. 30, 1876. The Senate Committee is still in session here; but very little has transpired as to the developments before them. Dennis, a noted republican leader, who

has been charged with being principal in the Archer precinct alleged frauds in Columbia county, is here, and is very active in getting up evidence. The num, ber of affidavits before the Board of State Canvassers

llustrates his abilities in this direction. The House committee have not yet returned from Gainesville, whither they have gone to look into the Archer precinct business. The leaders of the domo" cratic party here regard the decision of the Supreme Court as finally settling the matter; and the prevailing opinion is that Drew will be peaceably inaugurated.

REPUBLICAN CRITICISM. The republican organ here, partly owned by Governer Stearns, says:—"The manner in which the Board of State Canvassers have performed their work this second canvass of the vote of the State of Florida will prove very unsatisfactory to a majority of the thinking people of this State and to the country at large. It is in some degree a self-stultification and an implied confession of previous ignorance or wrong. In the original canvass two returns from Baker county were presented to the Board, one of them giving a democrate majority and the other one giving a republican majority. The one showing a majority for the democrate teket, with scarcely any discussion, was admitted to be legal in all its aspects, and the votes borne upon it were convassed and allowed. Now, in the second canvass, the vote of Baker county, rejected at the first count as not being the true return, as accepted, and the lace of all the returns is made to show a majority for the Haves electors. As was before said, the will satisfy nobody worth satisfying. If Marcellus L. Stearns was fairly and honesity defeated in the recent election, then, so far as the electoral vote of Florada is concerned, it belongs to Samuel J. Tilden. There is no getting over or around this fact."

LOUISIANA.

WORK OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES CONTINUED.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 20, 1876, The Senate Committee heard the evidence of nine colored men in reference to Onachita. They substactiated the testimony already published in reference to the reign of terror there and forcing of colored men to vote the democrate ticket. Rev. Ensha Moore and W. Burrell said they had been forced to burn republican richéts; they were taken to the polls, and but for the intercession of a Mr. Lucey both would have been killed. Another testified that Marion Rhodes' body when found was cut open and had two builet boles in the groin.

Rumund Richards swore that Dr. Young, Billy Pace

and others had hung hunsell, Henry Foster and Loudon Hector up to a tree and beaten them for relusing to vote the democratic ticket.

The testimony was very lengthy and the witnesses were subjected to a severe cross-examination. They were asked if the hanging was not done for stealing beef, and they answered that that was also charged but that some men afterward said they had found the best in Young's field. DEMOCRATIC FRAUD AND BULL-DOZING IN KIST BATON

The Senate sub-committee resumed the investiga-tion into the election at East Baton Rouge to-day. James Casley (colored), Commissioner of Election at poil No. 1, ward 11, swore that after the close of the poil the democrats made the election efficers make their returns to correspond with the taily sheets kept by them (the democrats); witness said the poil list was jost, and he would not swear to the correctness of the one substituted for it.

with the tally sheets kept by them the account of the testimony relative to the hanging of Jerry Meyers and the testimony relative to the hanging of Jerry Meyers and the terrorism in the parish, caused by bull-dozers. Witness stated that Mr. Pastan sand Jerry talked too much and organized republican clubs; witness had left the neighborhood through lear of his hie.

Thomas McAlpine, Deputy United States Marshal, testified to the general intumidation of colored people and irregularities in the election.

George Bird (colored), President of the colored republican committee in the parish, testified to general intimidation and violence by Regulators, and said there had been no peace or order in the parish for a year; the colored people believed they were persecuted on account of their politics, and many had been forced to leave their homes and crops.

The sub-committee adjourned till Tuesday.

INTIMIDATION OF COLORED DEMOCRATS—REPUBLICAN YRAUDS.

The House Committee, presided over by Mr. Morrisson, examined a number of witnesses in regard to the election in the city of New Orleans, especially poli No. 6, ward Eleventh.

A. J. Berm, Supervisor, said he did not return the poli because the returns were not sworn to as required by law.

R. J. Lawler testified to the intimidation of colored

by law.

H. J. Lawler testified to the intimidation of colored R. J. Lawler testified to the intimidation of colored democrats and the fraudulent registration of 250 persons in the Twelith ward; witness knew of Judge Dibble's having instructed negroes to vote double ballots at democratic polls, so as to have them thrown out; he had seen men distributing fraudulent registration papers ou the day of circulton, and had them arrected, but the police turned them loose; seventy-five of such papers were issued in his presence; he knew of a lady having a number of them, who afterward gave them up.

of a lady larving a number of them, who afterward gave them up.

This committee adjourned till Monday.

THE CANVASS OF PLAQUEMINE.

The House sub-committee took further testimony in reference to Plaquemine.

Haden Wilson, Unified States Supervisor, swore the registration was hot fairly conducted; that 200 voters failed to obtain registration papers on account of "orookedness."

failed to obtain registration papers on account of "ecrockedness."

Supervisor Edgeworth and several witnesses testified to the bad character of the previous witness.

Palse extrems proof the Custom House.

Jagenar Veasey, Supervisor of Latayette parish, was examined at great length a reference to the returns from that parish and the protest accompanying them. He said the latter was written at the Custom House and he was told he must sign it to make his returns require; that new tally sheats were made out with ce tain polls rejected, which he signed after they were made out at the Custom House. Witness said the election was fair and peaceable, and that the state-ments in the protest were from hear-ay evidence. This committee adjourned until Tuesday morning.

MR. M'MAHON'S SUB-COMMITTEE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.] Monnos, Dec. 30, 1876.
The sub-committee, composed of Messrs. McMahon, Ross and Crape, have already examined over 130 witnesses and the fact that the last election was remark. able for fairness thoroughly established. Not a word has been elicited about buildozing, and negro witnesses

who had been republicans laughed at it. A FREE AND PAIR ELECTION. Negro republicans voted freely in Onachita Morehouse and Richland parishes and every poll thrown

bouse and Richland parishes and every poil thrown out by the Returning Board is shown by colored destimenty to have been quiet and everyboay allowed to vote as he chese. The action of the Roard counted out in these parishes 2,000 democratic votes.

From the testimony of negroes the school question seems to have been the paramount one in changing their vote. This time republican officials testify to the fairness of the election.

A MEMBER SCHANGED TO NEW ORLEANS.

Hon. Miles Ross, of New Jersey, one of the members of McMahon's sub-committee at Monroe, has been easied to New Orleans by Chairman Morrison. It is thought that a cali for a quorum has been made of the Morrison committee to take action on the Orton contempt.

GEORGIA.

IMPORTANT EXPRESSION OF SENTIMENT BY ONE

OF HER MOST PROMINENT STATESMEN. . [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD. ]

ATLANTA, Dec. 30, 1876.
The Constitution, of this city, will publish to-morrow a very decisive letter from ex-Governor Joseph E. Brown on the national problem. As Governor Brown is pre-eminently a man of deliberate and dispassionate judgment his opinion has an importance throughout the South that attaches to the utterance of lew men-Notwithstanding the prejudices engendered by Governor Brown's course as a republican for many years after the war and his conspicuous opposition to the Jefferson Davis administration during the war, it is proposed on many sides now ator over either Hill, Norwood, Smith or Johnson. His present letter is written at the request of many gentlemen who desired that the position of the South, or at least of Georgia, should be announced from some authoritative source. This letter has been read by many leaders at the capital, and the indorsement of it is unaximous. It fairly expresses the feelings of nine-tenths of the Georgia people. I append leading extracts from the letter, which is dated December 28. Governor Brown says:-

cember 28. Governor Brown says:—

"I do not entertain the shadow of a doubt that Tilden and Hendricks were legally and inriv elected President near Vice President of the United States at the election hold on the 7th of November last. I know that serious lears are entertained that the leading spirits of the radical party at Washington have determined to so conduct the cantass of the votes as to declare Hayes and Wheeler elected, and then inaugurate Governor Hayes as President by military force. Whenever a candidate who received a minority of the votes cast at an election, and who has been counted in by the most shameless and unblush-

crament charposition by mintary torce, our government charges to an a republic, and we become the subjects of military despotism. I am aware it has been said in such an event here should be no resistance offered, either by the people or the fegality elected candidates, but that we should submit to the outrage and vote the party perpetrating it out of power at the next election; but it such usurpation should be successful and should be aquiesced in, what reasonable hope can any intelligent person have of a better result at a subsequent election? Having succeeded by the use of such means, the party in power would strenging a

its military force, and, if necessary, renew the frauds and duplicate them again and again at the subsequent election, and seatant their own anneuncement of the result by the use of the military. Should the people of the United States submit patently and peaceably to military usorpation on the present occasion it is mere mockery to talk of the peacetul remedy of the ballot box in the future.

PUTF OF DEMOCRATS.

It is a fact which cannot, I suppose, be dealed, that in the Northern States the republican party is possessed of the larger portion of the weath of that section; the largest bankers, brokers, manufacturers, bondholders, &c., are generally republicans, and they have a heavy pecuniary interest at stake in maintaining the peace and prosperity of the country. On the other hand, there may be an association of pointelians belonging to that party at Washington who would prefer civil war to the surender of power. If the democratic party should quietly back acown and permit itself to be builted, and its candidates, who were legally elected, to be set aside and the candidates defeated by them inaugurated by military power, the large class of wealthy persons above mentioned, while they might disapprove the act, would not trouble themseives to make any accided demonstrations of their disapproval; but if the democration of the near the near the supplies of the North, to say nothing of all other persons loving peace and good order, would doubless unite in compeling their ledders to respect the popular will, and would refuse to sestant them in revolution and military susrpation. My judgment, therefore, as that the democracy of the North conscious as they are that their canadiates trumphed in the late election and were fairly and fenses to the found of

THE OREGON ELECTION QUESTION. REPUBLICAN ELECTORS AND THEIR FRIENDS TELL THE STORY OF THE MEETING OF THE DUPLEX COLLEGE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 1876. The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections to-day proceeded with the investigation of the Oregon

field, in answer to questions by Senator Kernan, that after the republican electors had asked Mr. Cromn for replied that they might as well understand, first as last that he would not give them the certificates; the that time as to how he should act in regard to Cronin, but had counselled awyers, and was of the opinion that Cronin had no right as elector and witness did not intend to act with him; he accordingly refused to act with Cronin unless the latter should produce his authority to act, and Cronin then left the part of the room in which the College was in session. NOW THE VOTE WAS CAST.

The College then organized and cast the votes for R. B. Hayes for President, and W. A. Wheeler for Vice President; this was done as the law directed.; each College was provided with written forms, which the Secretary filed out; the forms were drawn up at the Republican State Committee; there were certificates also on hand which were filed and probably signed by the members of the College; the College was about half an hour in doing its work.

Cronin, upon leaving the part of the room in which the College was in session, took a seat at a table in one corner, and after a while called in Messrs. Miller and Packer who acted with him as electors: they were together about five minutes, when Cronin left and did not again return; witness first heard that there were armed men in the Capitol on the day the Electoral Col-

Straw, a conductor on the East Sade Railroad.

In answer to M. Morton—Straw bold witness he understood there were a runed men in the Capitol on that day; Thatcher said there were a number of men around the Capitol in the morning, who were seen again in the evening.

Witness regarded the action of Governor Grover in Issuing a certificate to Mr. Cronin as an outrage, and as a nasily business; no threats were made to Cronin; it had been suggested that it would be right for the other members of the College to take the certificates of their election away from Cronin; witness regarded Cronin as an imposor.

Encron Califwright, of the Dallos, Oregon, a lawyer and a republican elector, corroborated the testimony of the previous witness in reference to the call made upon the Governor by the republican electors on the day of the meeting of the College, and stated further that after the republican electors had taken possession of the room furnished them, which was a committee room just off from the Sciente Chamber, Secretary of State Chadwick brought them stationery, &c., witness left the room for a low moments, and upon returning lound Mr. Cronin there; Mr. Cronin stood near the door, and when a knock or sort of signal was given from the outside Cronin opened the door; Ar. Chadwick called Cronin's name and then handed him an envelope; as the door opened witness noticed a large number of men in the Scante Chamber and as westeral of them; there were med of both political parties assembled in the Senate Chamber and as westeral of them; there were med of both political parties assembled in the Senate Chamber, Mr. Minto, City Marshai of Salem, was in the chamber, and witness called him into the room, and witness noticed several of them; there were med of both political parties assembled in the Sonate Chamber, Mr. Minto, City Marshai of Salem, was in the chamber, and witness called him into the room, and college, witness calcurating what the paper was, and if it was being read correctly, where we were med to be the confidence

at Salem, did not tell withess what he was to appear there for.

In answer to Senator Kernan the witness stated that he did not think that Tazweil said to him, "I don't know whether I am the highest democratic elector on the ticket or not;" he did not think that any one in his presence advised taking the electors' certificates from Gronin by force, but he did hear sev-eral men say Gronin had no right to the certificates, and he was of that opinion himself; witness thought Gronin had no right to act as an elector, but might have acted with him had he (Contin) produced the cer-tificates; Mr. Minic, whom witness asked to guard the door was an independent until the last election, when he voted the republican ticket; witness did not say to Billinger that he litended to take the certificate from

Cronin, but might have stated to Billinger on the day following the meeting of the Electoral College that he ought to have taken the certificates from Cronin; when Cronin saked the republican electors if they refused to act with him, he repited that it was unreasonable of him (Cronin) to ask the other electors to act before they had certificates; Cronin replied it was "So That FOR EMESONS."

Witness remarked to Gronin, "You have a great deal of cheek to ask us to act with you when we have no certificates;" witness sho told Cronin it he wasted a row he could have one, and said he felt justified in making this remark; Cronin said he "sid not come to rew, but to vote for President and Vice President of the United States; "witness said he regarded the action of Governor Grover and Cronin as a concocted fraud and agrosa outrage; witness told Cronin he should not assume that the republican electors would not act with him, but should understand that they first wanted to see his santhority; the laws of Oregon did not authorize a certificate to Cronin; the law authorizes the Governor to certify what persons have the nighest number of votes.

Dr. J. W. Watts was next examined. He gave a detailed account of his going to the Secretary of State with Cartwright and Odels to get certificates, and also of the meeting of the electors. His testimony did not action the statements of Odels and Cartwright. The post office he resigned was worth from \$200 to \$200 per year, he never knew that he was mergious until after the election; at the meeting of the Coninge he resigned and was re-elected to fill the vacancy; when Cronin was asked by Odell and Cartwright, before Watts' re-election, to show his authority to not with them, he (Cronin) said they might as well understand first as a last that he would never give up the certificates; Cronin then withdrew to a corner of the same room, and witness saw him and Miller and Kippel signing papers which had evidently been prepared to the definity her firm and wance.

pet signing papers which hel evidently been prepared in advance.

Secretary of State Chadwick, of Oregon, was recalled by the chairman, Mr. Norton, at this point of the investigation to testify in regard to the location of the rooms in the State House, and how the writing materials which Cronin used came to be in the room where the electors not. He stated, in reply, that he carried part of them there himself, and the rest were taken to the room by the janitor by his direction.

G. A. Steele, chairman of the Republican State Committee of Oregon, testified that he knew nothing of Watts' ineligibility until after the election. Mr. Steele also corroborated the testimony in relation to his (Mr. Steele's) drafting the forms of the certificates used by the Kepublican Electoral College.

Watts' ineligibility until after the election. Mr. Steele also corroborated the testimony in relation to his (Mr. Steele's) drafting the forms of the certificates used by the Republican Electoral College.

ARMAD MAX IN THE STATE HOUSE.

J. N. Dolph, of Salem, Oregon, a lawyer, considered himself very weil informed but had never heard of Watts' ineligibility until after the electors; he was in the Senate Chamber while the College was in session; there were several republicans and democrats near the door leading to the foom in which the College was in session, and several democrats were near the door of the next room but one adjoining that in which the College mer; witness could not see why the men should congregate in the latter place; he saw no srmed men on the day of the meeting of the Electoral College, but he heard Cronin say next day that there were twenty-five atmed men at the Governor's house on the night of the day the Electoral College met who would have shot through the neart any one who attempted to burn him (Governor Grover) in effigy in front of his residence; did not know at the time that there were men secreted in the building where the electors met, but heard a report to that effect later; around one of the doors in the half some lifty persons, all democrats, were gathered; this door opened into the room in which the harm were sald to have been conceased; several officers of the State minitia were present.

Mr. Kernan-They had no arms, had they?

Witness-None that were visible.

Witness expressed his opinion on the day of the College's meeting that it would be right to take the certificates from Cronin by force, but several republicans differed with him.

A FRAUD AND OUTRAGE.

Witness was present in the Capitol on the day of the meeting of the College to see fair play; he considers Governor Grover's action in the matter fraudulent and outrageons; it was also unlawful; he considers Governor Grover's action in the matter fraudulent and elector thinks he should have taken the certificates from him b

### COUNTING THE ELECTORAL VOTES.

of the Proceedings of Congress at the Counting of the Electoral Votes in all the Elections of President and Vice President in the United States, Together with all Congressional Debates Incident Thereto or to Proposed Legislation upon that Subject, D. Appleton & Co. THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNTS: A Complete Official Record

Co. have published a compilation of precedents and authorities on the all absorbing question of the rights and duties of Congress in the matter of counting the electoral votes cast for President and Vice President. Twenty-one Presidential elections have taken place under the federal constitution without any serious difficulty having arisen. These elections have, however, formed a strong and unbroken chain of precedents which in this perilous hour offer a safe auchorage all considerations of party. For the first time in the history of this Republic the decision of who shall be President depends upon disputed votes. On one side are 121 undisputed votes, on the other 165, with twenty in dispute. While the wording of the constitution affords room for some diversity of opinion as to the power of Congress over the counting of votes, unbroken precedent asserts that authority in the strong-

THE FIRST PRESIDENT.

The credentials of the members present being read and ordered to be flied, the Senae proceeded, by ballot to the choice of a President, for the sole purpose of committed the votes for President of the

United States
John Langdon was elected.

several States in a choice of a President and Vice President of the United States; and that the Senate is now ready, in the Senate Chamber, to proceed, in the presence of the House, to discharge that duty; and that the Senate have appointed one of their members ito sit at the Unit's table to make a list of the votes as they shall be declared; submitting it to the wisdom of the House to appoint one or more of their members for the like purpose.

Mr. Elisworth having discharged his duty of notifying the House of Representatives.

ing the House of Representatives it was, on motion, ing the floure of Representatives it was, on motion, new jived, That Mr. Speaker, attended by the House, do now withdraw to the Senate Commber, for the purpose expressed in the message from the Senate; and that Mr. Parker and Mr. Heister be appointed, on the part of this floure, to sit at the Clerk's table with the members of the Senate, and make a list of the votes as the same shall be declared.

declared.

Mr. Speaker accordingly left the chair, and, attended by the House, withdrew to the Senate Chamber, and after some time returned to the House.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, Mr. Parker and Mr. Heister then delivered in at the Cierk's table a list of the votes of the electors of the several States in the choice of a President and Vice President of the United States, as the same were declared by the President of the Senate, in the presence of the Senate and of this House, which was ordered to be entered on the journal.

On the 20th January 1207

On the 30th January, 1797, a committee was appointed by the Senate to ascertain and report a mode for examining the votes for President and Vice President, and conter with a similar committee appointed

dent, and conier with a similar committee appointed by the House February 2.

Mr. Sedgwick reported from the joint committee appointed on the part of the Senate on the subject of the election of Fresident and Vice President, that, in their opinion, the following resolution ought to be adopted, viz.:—"That the two houses shall assemble in the Chamber of the House of Representatives on Wednesday next, at twelve o'clock; that one person be appointed a teller on the part of the Senate to make a first of the votes as they shall be declared; that the result shall be delivered to the Fresident of the Senate, who shall, announce the state of the vote, and the persons elected. To the two houses assembled as aloresnid, which shall be deemed a declaration of the persons elected President and Vice President, and together with a list of votes, be entered on the journies of the two houses." On motion it was agreed to satopt the report, and that Mr. Sedgwick be the teller of the votes on the part of the Senate. And on the 4th of February, a message from the House of Representatives informed the Senate that they have agreed to the report of the joint committee upon the mode of examining the votes for President and Vice President of the United States, and have appointed tellers of the votes on their part.

A FALLERE TO ELECT.

On the 11th of February, 1801, it was ordered in the Senate that the Senate is ready to meet them in the Senate that the Secretary notify the House of Representatives that the Secretary notify the House of Representation of the United States.

The two houses of Congress acc

United States,

Mr. Haynes said, as the hour had nearly elapsed, he begged to propound an inquiry to the Chair in relation to the order in which the Senate should be received by the House on occasions like the present.

The Chair stated, in regly, that the usual course had

of the House?

The Chair stated, in reply, that upon every occasion of this kind, with a single exception, the invariable course had been to send a message to the Senate by the Clerk. In one instance only the message had been transmitted by a committee of two members of the House, who were also appointed to conduct the Senate into the hall; but that was a departure from the former practice.

votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

Mr. Anthony's motion was put and agreed to.

The Cierk accordingly left the House. The Senate shortly after entered the hall, with the President of the Senate, the Hon. William R. King, of Alabama, at their head, preceded by the Secretary and the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, and were received at the door of the hall and conducted to the seats assigned them by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives, all the members being uncovered and rising in their places.

When the Senators had taken the seats assigned them, and the President of the Senate had scated himself at the right of the Speaker, the tellers took their seats at the Cierk's table. The tellers were:—For the Senate, Hon. Felix Grundy; for the House of Representatives, the Hon. Francis Thomas and the Hon. Levi Lincoln.

The President of the Senate then rose and said:—

"The two houses being now convened for the purpose of counting the electoral veges of the several States for President and Vice President of the United States, the

The President of the Senate then rose and said:—
"The two houses being now convened for the purpose of counting the electoral veles of the Ented States for President and Vice President of the United States, the President of the Senate will, in puranance of the previsions of the constitution, proceed to open the votes and deliver them to the tellers in order that they may

"I now present to the tellers the electoral votes of e State of Maine."

#### ABOLITION OF THE PRESIDENCY.

In response to the following address a curious meeting was held last night in a place called Clark's Hall, situated over a bililard saloon, at No. 479 Pennsylvanus

Washington, Dec. 27, 1878.

A mass meeting is announced in this city to discuss the question and petition Congress to adopt amenaments to the constitution abolishing the Presidency; an executive council to be substituted therefor, to be composed of the seven secretaries, or present members of the Cabinet, four to be elected by the House and three by the Senate from members of their respective houses, for two years, one or all to be removed at any time by the House electing them, and each to have the rights of a member in both houses. That is, strike out the President and authorize the secretaries charged with the execution of the laws in their several departments to administer the government. The Cabinet to be the head of the government. This is about the form of the Swiss Republic, the oldest and freest government on earth. It also corresponds to the British Cabinet government, in effect selected by Parliament and at all times responsible thereto. It is claimed in the call for the meeting that this is the only wise, simple, satisfactory, honorable, peaceful and patriotic way out of the present crisis of a contested Presidential election, which may lead to a civil war with all of its directal consequences. The change would also be a vast improvement in the government. It is suggested that meetings for the same purpose be held in all cities and towns throughout the country, to aginate the question and arouse and form public opinion.

Some thirty persons, including Dr. Mary Walker, assembled. Rev. Dr. Taylor, pastor of the Free assembled. Rev. Dr. Taylor, paster of the Free

church, presided, in his overcoat. Mr. A. Watson, a gentleman of considerable ferocity of tone and untidy shirt front, read the call, which was at once responded to by a Mr. Bingham. This latter person read a great many interesting facts about the government of Switz. erland, which, it seemed, he desired to substitute for "the government of Grant" ernment tests in a federal assembly com-prising two divisions, viz.: a National Council, corresponding to our House of Representatives, and a States Council, corresponding to our Senate. The executive authority is vested in a body of seven mem. bers, entitled the Federal Council, the members of which are elected by the Federal Assembly. When questions of jurisdiction arise the two bouses assemble in joint convention and the joint majority decides. two houses together and yearly elect a lederal President and a Vice President, who are not eligible for reelection the next year. The Federal Assembly can remove for cause any member of the Foderal Council,
including, of course, the President, who receives a
salary of only \$2,700. In the Federal Council resides
all authority for appointment and removal of subordinates in the executive branch of the government. Antecements of candidates in point of capacity
for the positions applied for, together in some cases
with oral and written examinations, are mathly relied
upon in making political appointments. Removals except for inefficiency are unknown. Changes of administration never affect the tenure of office of employed
of the government. The Swiss people as a whole combut centralization in every form in which it may be
presented, except where it is deemed essential to the
preservation of the nation as a republic; hence in a
recent amendment of their constitution they have asserted the right of referencium and vested a veto
power, by popular ballot, in the citizens at large.

Encouraged by Mr. Bingham's presentation of a
model Swiss Republic, Mr. Watson, who resumed the
itnor, salled into a discourse upon the history of the
United States constitution, which went to show that
the signers of that instrument were unduly influenced
and mane a big mistake. "The loca that the constitution was the birth of wisdom," insisted Mr.
Watson, "is absurd. It was an accident! The
Convention where hormed it sat over three months.
The men of the Convention were undouttedly intelligent, but undoubtedly wrong. "A President," Baid
Edmund Randolph, "is the locus of a monarch." Perhaps it would be more accurate to say now-a-days, that
a President is an itherant king. The linal voic which
decided on a President for this country was seven to
three, in a Convention where but ten States were represented. Can any one doubt," asked Mr. Watson,
what it is vote was cast because General Washington
what its vote was cast be two houses together and yearly elect a federal President and a Vice President, who are not eligible for redent and a Vice President, who are election the next year. The Federal Assembly can re-election the next year. The Federal Council,

At this bair-lifting query several hats and bonnets

floor.

"(1 means tyrann)! It means monarchy!"

exclaimed the Poctor, stamping her graceful fe-k. I have reliable information
about it. At the chosen time the House, of Representatives is to be arrested. The country is to roll in
river-r-s of blood!"

A member (streastically)—"Don't you think you're
making a very good speech against the office of President?"

Another member (gravely)—"Mr. President, is the person who addresses us in order?"

The President (courteously)—"I think —"

Dr. Walker (imperiously)—"I think it to be my right to speak to the question according to my mental abritties. If the gentleman understands my mental abritties better than I do, let him come on."

The offending member (deprecating violence)—"I only meant —"

The Doctor (trately and with hands on hips)—"Weil, sirf"

reform. She was not again interrupted. At the close of her address some crude brief speeches were made by a man in the Post office Department and a woman whose trump was more resonant than Miss Walker's. The latter advocated woman suffrage, of course, and was followed by an ill clad but open browed and broad-shouldered mechanic, who made a speech entirely rational and uninteresting.

The preponderance of opinion was unfavorable to the abandonment of the Presidency of the United States. But all the proceedings were less important than diverting, as may from this brief mention be inferred.

THE SPEAKERSHIP OF THE AS SEMBLY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29, 1876.

TO THE MENBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK :-The undersigned have had their attention called for

several years past to the large and increasing influence of the presiding officers of the Legislature, not only in the appointment of committees, but also in shaping the whole course and character of legislation. So large in behalf of the business and public interests of the city, respectfully to ask you to give more than the city, respectfully to ask you to give more than the usual care, in the present critical juncture of public affairs, to the selection of a Speaker for your body for the approaching session. These interests unquestionably demand that, especially for this session of the Legislature, the Speaker of the Assembly should have the confidence of those who are chiefly responsible for the support and character of the government of the State and its municipalities. He should be distinguished for the purity of his public hot and his sympathy with the best sentiment of the State in regard to wise and patriotic legislation and public reforms. His character should be a guarantee that he will use his position to redoem the Legislature of the State from the reputation it has acquired of being used to legalize schemes of private speculation, partisan measures and frauds on taxpayers and property owners.

The public demands a bigher order of patriotism and a more practical manifestation of it in legislators than heretofore. Hereafter the ruling political party will be held to the strictest acconatability for any neglect to give expression to this sentiment—above all for any attempt to thwarf it.

The opportunity presented to the party now in the majority in the present Assembly to elect a Speaker whose character conforms to these views, should not tail to be improved. The interests of the public and the future of the party demand it.

The inevitable consequence of a failure to do this will be dissistrous to the party holding this majority.

JAMES EMOTP.

J. M. BUNDY.

W. H. BUNDY.

W. H. BUNDES.

J. D. LORD.

GEO. DEFOREST LORD.

J. D. LORD.

J. W. H. MORRISON.

W. H. BUNDES.

J. M. BONDY.

W. H. BUNDES.

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J. M. BUNDY.

#### RAID ON A BOWERY SALOON.

About eleven o'clock last night, Captain Lowery, o the Sixth precinct, wearing an ulster overcoat and a the "Bremen Borse" at No. 42 Bowery. He was followed by a couple of patrolmen who took charge of the rear and front entrances to the place while the the rear and front entrances to the place while the Captain announced that the persons then inside were his prisoners. A platoon of officers soon turned the corner of Bayard street. They entered the place and escorted a dozen men and about naif that number of lemaies to the Franklin street police station, where they were locked up. A large crowd had been attracted to the place by the appearance of the police, and a man of an inquiring turn of mind ventured into the store. There he was net by Captain Lowery, who ordered him away, and, on his not complying with the order as promptly as desired, the Captain strock him a stunning blow in the face, after which he had him locked up.

#### DEATH FROM LOCKJAW.

SUSPICIONS OF FOUL PLAY. James Colgy, a young man residing at No. 12 Oswego street, Jersey City, died on Thursday night from lockjaw. County Physician Converse was notified by Dr. Viers, who attended the man in his last illness, and on Friday made a post-mortem examina-tion. Yesterday Dr. Converse directed Coroner Cannon to hold an inquest. The examination made by the Coroner yesterday revealed the fact that Colgy went Coroner yesterday revealed the inct that Colgy went on a spree with a man hamed Burke, residing on Pactory street, and went home with him, where they drank a bottle of whiskey and three pints of ale Colgy was put out of the house by Mr. Burke, and he fell from a wall, striking on a lot of acrap iron and cutting nimself badly. He died on Thursday night. The Doctor knew nothing of the facts in the case, and did not believe that so many bruises and cuts could have been inflicted by a fall, and retured a certificate. The inquest will be held next Tuesday night.

### PASSING MUSTER.

The Tammany Committee on Organization held a meeting yesterday atternoon, Mr. John Kelly presiding, at which credentials were given to all the elected members of the new General Committee, which is to meet on the 4th of January, the members from district, on account of irregularities in the election, a district, on account of irregularities in the election, a new election was ordered to take place next Wednesday evening. The election is to be superintended by three inspectors—Thomas S. Brennan, Joseph Blumenthal and John J. Gorman. Each party who rons a candidate will have the right to designate a challenger by written certificate. The contestants were Aiderman Moore and William A. Boyd. In the Third district a protest was received from James Hayes against James J. Slevin, the successful candidate, and in the sixth one from Michael Healy against Judge Campbell.

### RUN TO EARTH.

While patrolling Stagg street yesterday morning Officer Thustone found three men in the act of break ng into the basement of No. 28, owned and occupied by Frank Gittel They saw the officer at the same noment and ran toward Union avenue, he in their wake. Finding they were gaining on him he emptied this revolver as he ran, but hid not succeed in inducing them to stop. Last night, however, he succeeded in capturing two of the secondrels, who gave their names as Charles Trace and James McCue. Trace, though only twenty years of age, has sorved several terms for their, and while incarcerated in Queens County Jail, at Mineola, in April last, awaiting trial for burglery, made his escape. He takes his present predicament as a matter of course, saying, "I shall plead guilty of an astempt," and then I shall get it light."

## AN OVERREACHING THIEF.

Jacob Ditzel, a well known New York tnief, after a robbery there on Friday, and was yesterday arrested fluding he was wanted by the police, crossed the Eas River and took quarters with his mother. Money be

### TWO OLD FRIENDS' ROBES.

Detectives Lyons and Smith arrested Bernard Maray, of Gold street, and Henry Murray, of No. 49 Eas Fifty-second street, in Grand street stealing pocketbooks, three handkerchiets and other small articles When these men were taken three pawntickets for buffalo robes were found upon them. Robes answer the description sent by Supernsteadent Campbell, of Brooklyn, to Police Headquarters, New York, last week. It appears that Mr. neecher and strange to say, Theodore Tilton have each lost a siegh robe, for which the Brooklyn police are on the lookout.

### FIRE IN WILLIAMSBURG.

Through the carelessness of the occupants of the first floor a fire broke out last evening in the three story frame dwelling and store No. 230 North Seventh street, Williamsburg. The building owned by Mrs. J. Quinn was damaged \$600; no insurance. The losses Owen McCurran, \$500; insured for \$500 in the Williamsburg City Fire Insurance Company. Second floor, Peter Foodry, \$400; in insurance. Third floor, Patrick Tolly, \$190; no insurance.

### FIRE IN A CHURCH.

About half-past seven o'clock last evening, while the tation, to Verona street, near Richard street, South Brooklyn, for the New Year's services was in progress, The Doctor (trately and with hands on hips)—
"Woil, air?"

A quest strings now fell, which was presently broken by the voice of Dr. Walker, arging Tudes and properties of the latter drapery caught fire from a candle in the hands of one of the latters engaged in the task. The firemen arrived at the church in a short time after the slarm was given and quickly suppressed the dames. The damage is estimated at about \$500. The outlier is insured by the pastor, Rev. Father Kiely, in the Phoenix Insurance Company.